THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A device for use in the collection and testing of a sample, comprising:
   a. a housing having an internal recess; and
   b. a sample collection device;
   said housing being adapted to receive said sample collection device in the internal recess therein and to shield a sample collected on said sample collection device, said housing also being adapted to receive an insertable testing element such that, on insertion of said testing element into said housing, the testing element is in liquid-conductive communication with a sample collected on said sample collection device.

2. A testing device for the identification of an analyte of interest in a sample, comprising:
   a. a housing having an internal recess;
   b. a sample collection device; and
   c. at least one insertable testing element;
   said housing being adapted to receive said sample collection device in the internal recess therein and to shield a sample collected on said sample collection device, said housing also being adapted to receive the or each said insertable testing element such that, on insertion of said testing element into said housing, the testing element is in liquid-conductive communication with a sample collected on said sample collection device.

3. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein, on insertion of the testing element into the housing, the testing element is in direct liquid-conductive communication with a sample collected on the sample collection device.

4. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the sample collection device is a swab.

5. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the sample collection device collects a predetermined amount of the sample.

6. A device according to claim 5, wherein the sample collection device comprises a hydrophilic, porous matrix of defined volumetric capacity, affixed to the base of a dipstick or handle.

7. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the housing is provided with a first window or aperture communicating with the internal recess within the housing for insertion of the sample collection device, together with a least one additional window or aperture which is separate from the first window or aperture and which also communicates with the internal recess for insertion of the, or each, insertable testing element so that the testing element is in liquid-conductive communication with a sample collected on said sample collection device.

8. A device according to claim 2, wherein the insertable testing element is a guaiac-based test strip.

9. A device according to claim 2, wherein the insertable testing element is an immunochromatographic test strip.

10. A device according to claim 2, which comprises two or more insertable testing elements each of which, when inserted into the housing, is in liquid-conductive communication with a sample collected on the sample collection device.

11. A device according to claim 10, wherein the testing elements are the same elements.

12. A device according to claim 10, wherein the testing elements are different elements.

13. A device according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said testing elements is an immunochromatographic test strip.

14. A device according to claim 10, wherein at least one of said testing elements is a guaiac-based test strip.

15. A device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the housing is provided with a solvent application aperture in communication with the internal recess.

16. A method for the identification of an analyte of interest in a sample, using a device according to claim 1 or claim 2 comprising:

a. collecting a sample on the sample collection device,

b. inserting said sample collection device into the internal recess of the housing of the device, and

c. inserting the insertable testing element into the housing such that the testing element is in liquid-conductive communication with said sample.

17. A method according to claim 16 further comprising:

d. applying a solvent to said sample to enable transfer of at least part of said sample, or a component thereof, to the testing element.